

by definition, is one where the ratio of water to the sum total of the remaining components is greater than 1, *i.e.*, where the amount of water exceeds 50 wt % of the total."

In the claims:

Claims 16-20 have been allowed. Please cancel claims 2-10, 12, 14 and 15.

Please enter the following new claims:

✓ 21. (New) An aqueous emulsion for coating the internal surface of a food casing comprising, at least one polyglyceryl ester and greater than 50 wt % of water.

✓ 22. (New) The emulsion of claim 21 further comprising from about 10 to about 20 wt % of a polyhydric alcohol.

✓ 23. (New) The emulsion of claim 22 wherein said polyhydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of glycerin and propylene glycol.

✓ 24. (New) The emulsion of claim 21 wherein the polyglyceryl ester comprises triglyceryloleate.

✓ 25. (New) The emulsion of claim 21 wherein the polyglyceryl ester is present from about 1 to about 5 wt %.

✓ 26. (New) The emulsion of claim 21 further comprising up to about 2 wt % of a water soluble cellulose derivative.

✓ 27. (New) The emulsion of claim 26, wherein the water soluble cellulose derivative is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

✓ 28. (New) The emulsion of claim 21, further comprising up to about 5 wt % of a water insoluble low viscosity oil.

29. (New) The emulsion of claim 28 wherein, said water insoluble low viscosity oil is selected from the group consisting of soybean oil, cottonseed oil, mineral oil, animal derived oil, and silicon oil.

30. (New) The emulsion of claim 21, further comprising from about 0.1 to about 2 wt.% of an emulsifier.

31. (New) An aqueous emulsion for coating the internal surface of a food casing comprising, at least one polyglyceryl ester and greater than 65 wt % of water.

32. (New) The emulsion of claim 31 wherein said polyglyceryl ester comprises triglycerylolate.

33. (New) The emulsion of claim 31 further comprising from about 0.1 to about 2 wt % of an emulsifier.

34. (New) The emulsion of claim 31 further comprising from about 10 to about 20 wt % of a polyhydric alcohol.

35. (New) The emulsion of claim 34 wherein the polyhydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of glycerin and propylene glycol.

36. (New) The emulsion of claim 31 wherein the polyglyceryl ester is present from about 1 to about 5 wt %.

37. (New) The emulsion of claim 31 further comprising up to about 2 wt % of a water soluble cellulose derivative.

38. (New) The emulsion of claim 37, wherein the water soluble cellulose derivative is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

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39. (New) The emulsion of claim 31, further comprising up to about 5 wt.% of a water insoluble low viscosity oil.

40. (New) The emulsion of claim 39 wherein, said water insoluble low viscosity oil is selected from the group consisting of soybean oil, cottonseed oil, mineral oil, animal derived oil, and silicon oil.

41. (New) The emulsion of claim 21 wherein said emulsion coats from about 200 to 1200 mg per square meter.

42. (New) The emulsion of claim 31 wherein said emulsion coats from about 200 to 1200 mg per square meter.

Remarks

Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to confer with Applicant's attorney on May 21 and 22, 2002 regarding the pending claims.

The Specification has been amended to better define the meaning of the term "aqueous emulsion". The term "aqueous emulsion" is an oil-in-water emulsion, where water is the continuous phase in which oils or other hydrophobic molecules are dispersed, which by definition, is one where the ratio of water to the sum total of the remaining components is greater than 1, *i.e.*, where the amount of water exceeds 50 wt % of the total. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

Claims 2, 4-10, 12, 14, 15 and 16-20 are presently pending in the application. Claims 16-20 have been allowed. Claims 2, 4-10, 12, 14 and 15 have been canceled and new claims 21-42 have been added. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the new claims. Support for new claims 21-42 can be found throughout the Specification.